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ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.

FRIDAY, DEC. 23, 1921.

Published Every Friday by W. O. Saunders at 205 E. Fearing St., Elizabeth City, N. C.

\$1.50 A YEAR

GOVERNMENT MAY BUY LAKE DRUMMOND CANAL

This Newspaper Has Information That Board of Engineers Will Recommend Purchase at \$500,000.00

This newspaper has information from an inside and reliable source that the Board of Engineers for River and Harbors of the U. S. War Department has made the Lake Drummond Canal Co. an offer of \$500,000 for the Lake Drummond Canal, conditional upon the approval of the offer by Congress and that Congress will be asked to purchase this canal as a part of the nation's intracoastal waterway system. It is just like old Santa Claus himself spilling a whole bag of good things in the lap of Elizabeth City.

The last Congress adopted a resolution directing the Board of Engineers to investigate and consider the Lake Drummond or Dismal Swamp Canal route with a view to reporting as to the desirability of its acquisition by the United States. The hearing called for by that resolution was held in Norfolk, Va., on May 16, 1921. Those who thought the case hopeless for the Dismal Swamp canal route expected the engineers to make an adverse report within a few weeks. The fact that a report of any kind has been made public indicates that the Board of Engineers has given the subject careful consideration.

This newspaper is not only informed that the Engineers will recommend the purchase of the Dismal Swamp Canal for \$500,000, but that their recommendation will call for a sea level canal via this route. This would mean an expenditure of millions of dollars in making this canal the most important link in the Atlantic Intra-Coastal Waterway; it would put Elizabeth City on the line of this great inland water route; and would wipe the Great Dismal Swamp forever from the map of North Carolina and Virginia and reclaim for agricultural purposes millions of acres of the most valuable black lands in the world.

A Brief History

The Lake Drummond Canal, familiar to us as the Dismal Swamp Canal, was authorized more than a century ago, and has been in more or less continuous use by the public as a waterway for transportation since it was opened to traffic. Under the present organization and ownership it was improved to its present capacity about 1890, since which date it has carried the bulk of water-borne traffic between Norfolk and ports North to the inland waters of Eastern North Carolina. As a quasi public corporation it has not only been recognized and used by the public, but the Federal government in the exercise of its jurisdiction of navigable waterways has improved the approaches thereto from Elizabeth River on the North and from Pasquotank River on the South. This recognition and improvement under Legislation by Congress carries the presumption that the Dismal Swamp Canal was regarded as useful and essential in the scheme of water transportation and that it promoted the public welfare. The further presumption exists, which applies to all public utilities, that it was an incident upon the corporation which owned and controlled it that it should be maintained in a condition suitable for continuous use and navigation for the purpose of vessels which it was intended to accommodate, and there existed a right upon the part of the public to demand this process to compel the discharge of this function and duty. Besides the owning and operation of this canal created certain rights in the people and property abutting the canal and contiguous thereto through connection with highway and other facilities of egress and ingress. This contiguous territory became vested not only with the right to use this canal for the purpose of transportation and to demand its maintenance for such purpose, but in so far as its operation impressed itself upon contiguous property by enhancing its value and enlarging its earning and productive capacity, such results were indissolubly linked with the canal and could not be separated, except by due process of law.

Its Relation to Other Waterways.

There was another canal, known as the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal, which began on the Elizabeth River and finally intersected with North River and Albemarle Sound in North Carolina. This canal and the Dismal Swamp Canal have frequently been referred to as parallel waterways. Except in so far as both originate on Elizabeth River and both finally intersect at a common point in Albemarle Sound, the two canals are dissimilar. For illustration it may be stated that both the Norfolk Southern Railroad and the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad originate at Norfolk and intersect each other at Washington, Greenville and Wilson. North Carolina, and yet these two railroads are certainly dissimilar. This is true because they traverse and serve different sections of country between the points of their termini. The routes of the Albemarle & Chesapeake Canal and the Dismal Swamp Canal likewise intersect at a common point in Albemarle Sound. (Continued on Page 8.)

\$163,354.000 RAISED BY CHURCH IN FOUR YEARS

First Methodist Also Report 300 New Members and Property Holdings of \$175,000 at Close of Year

The First Methodist Church South of Elizabeth City has just made public its annual report for the close of the recent conference year. The report completes another interesting chapter in the lively progress of a great church. The outstanding work of the year was the progress on the magnificent church building. Many congregations, indeed most congregations, in building such a church would be content to raise such a part of the cost as they could and leave a large part to be raised afterward. But the congregation of First Church have set for themselves the ambitious plan of building and paying as they go. During the past year the Sunday School room has been completed and occupied and the main building so far advanced that if it were not for the delay in securing the organ, it might be occupied very soon. As it is all the steps necessary have been taken and the work will be pushed to completion. And the plan will be continued to the end, "pay as we go."

But the year was marked also by progress along other lines. Twenty-seven were received on profession of faith and 39 by certificate and otherwise. The total membership is now 905. The net gain during the four years in which Mr. Ormond was pastor was 149. Sixteen adults and sixteen infants were baptised during the year. The Sunday School was re-organized during the year and is now one of the few fully organized departmental Sunday Schools in the state. Associated with Superintendent Sawyer are superintendents of departments, each department having its separate organization and services. The Sunday School has also grown greatly during the year. The Epworth League, as the Methodist Young People's organization is called, is healthy and active. There were reported 747 in the Sunday School and 85 in the League. The former raised for all purposes \$1,475; the latter \$110. The whole church reported as raised during the year \$68,000.

The financial report of the church for the entire four years of Pastor Ormond's ministry is especially interesting. The totals follow:

1918	\$33,900.00
1919	\$22,871.00
1920	\$28,775.00
1921	\$67,988.00

Grand Total \$163,534.00

The total value of all property held by the church is now \$175,000. The figure includes the old property held by the church and all that has been actually expended on the new building. The new church was opened for public worship on Nov. 13, the Sunday school auditorium seating 1,000 persons being used for all services until the main auditorium seating 800 to 1,000 persons is ready for occupancy. The opening of the main auditorium is being delayed principally by the installation of the organ.

Three hundred persons were received into the membership of the church under Pastor Ormond's ministry.

PECK'S BAD BOY AT ALKRAMA NEXT WEEK

Jackie Coogan, The Inimitable Kid, Furnishes Barrels of Fun in New Picture

The long-heralded production, "Peck's Bad Boy," with lovable little Jackie Coogan in the stellar role, will be the feature offering at the Alkrama Theatre next week, Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 27 and 28.

As the mischievous lad who makes at lot of trouble for his "Pa" and sets a whole town "by the ears," Jackie Coogan is said to give an even more delightful and amusing impersonation than that which brought him fame and fortune in Chaplin's "The Kid."

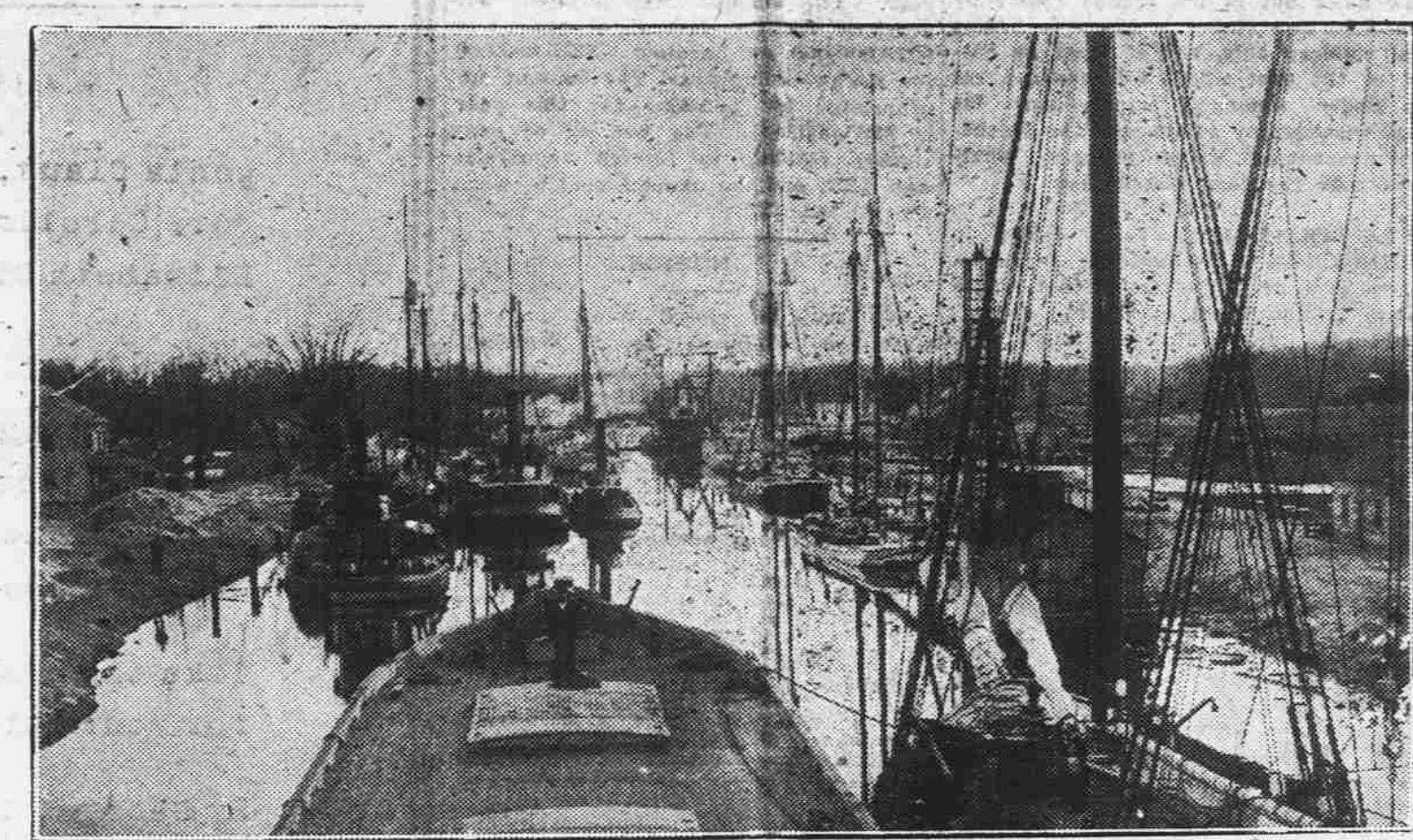
"Peck's Bad Boy" is an adaptation of the works of the late Governor George Peck. The subtitles were written by that inimitable humorist, Irvin S. Cobb. Appearing in support of Jackie in this latest photoplay is an excellent cast which includes Doris May, Wheeler Oakman, James Corrigan, Lillian Leighton, Raymond Hatton, Charles Hatton and Baby Gloria Wood.

The production was recently given its Broadway premier at the Strand Theatre in New York, where it was a sensational success. Critics were unanimous in their praise of the six-year-old star and his first independent production for release by Associated First National.

JOHN SHOES THE FAMILY

John W. Twiford of East Lake was in town Wednesday and, among other things, he purchased 16 pairs of shoes. Asked if he expected to start a shoe business at East Lake, Mr. Twiford explained that he was only "shoeing up his family," a pair of Sunday shoes for himself, his wife and six children.

As It Once Appeared And As It May Appear Again



THE Lake Drummond or Dismal Swamp Canal was once an important waterway thru which was carried the bulk of the water-borne traffic between Chesapeake Bay and the inland waters of North Carolina. The illustration is from a photograph of the Dismal Swamp Canal taken at South Mills several years ago and illustrates a common scene on the canal before the government opened its free intracoastal waterway via the Albemarle & Chesapeake Canal and Currituck Sound. The government is now expected to purchase the Dismal Swamp Canal, to make it again the heavy traffic link of the inland waterway between the Chesapeake and the North Carolina sounds. The purchase of this canal by the government will be of incalculable benefit to Elizabeth City.

CONTRACTORS EAGER TO GET THIS WORK

Close Bidding on Contracts-Fer State Normal School Work Here

J. J. Stroud, of Southern Pines, N. C., in competition with twelve other contractors, carried off the contract for the new administration building of the Negro State Normal School in this city last Saturday. J. S. Padgett of Elizabeth City, in competition with six other heating contractors carried off the contract for heating the new building. H. Guion of Gastonia, N. C., in competition with five other firms, took the contract for sewer and water.

The Building Committee of the State Normal, W. O. Saunders, chairman, rejected all bids on plumbing and all bids on two smaller buildings, one of which is to be used for a principal's cottage, the other for a practice school and plumbing will be received and opened at an early date.

J. J. Stroud's bid for the administration building was \$129,850. Bids ranged from \$137,000 to \$152,000, in round numbers, most of the bids being around \$140,000.

J. S. Padgett's bid for the heating was \$9,480 against bids ranging from \$10,888 to \$16,400.

A. H. Guion's bid for the water and sewerage system for the school was \$20,384.30 less one item of \$2,600 to be deducted.

Competition for the work was keen and the number of contractors present Saturday indicated the scarcity of construction work in some other parts of the country. It is gratifying that all of the contracts were awarded North Carolina concerns and that at least one Elizabeth City contractor was a successful bidder. These are days when money kept at home is the most desirable money.

Work of construction on the new administration building and the water and sewerage system for the State Normal began at once. The work is to be done out of appropriations made by the General Assembly of 1921. Contracts for other buildings for which appropriations were made at the same time will be let next spring. The new administration building, with its plumbing and heating included will cost upwards of \$150,000 and will be one of the handsomest school buildings in the state.

Barlow Harrell, of Elizabeth City, has just been awarded a prize of a massive chest of silverware given by the Pan-American Life Insurance Co. The prize was given in a competition between forty agents of the Pan-American in North Carolina and Virginia for the largest volume of business written during the months of September, October and November.

ONE MULE AND CART, in fine condition; reason for selling going to quit farming; mule weighs 1150 lbs. A. L. SPENCE, Newland Twp., Rt. 2. P.D.23-26

CHEAP LENSES ARE EXPENSIVE LENSES

There are no bargain days nor substitutes for good eye glasses. Cheaper materials can be substituted for almost anything except a correctly fitted lens. "Cheap" lenses oftentimes cause trouble of a more serious nature than the defects they are supposed to correct. Only people who have been trained to recognize defects of vision and to know how to make a proper correction are capable of advising on such an important subject as lenses. Avoid trouble by consulting reliable professional people and taking their advice.

DR. J. D. HATHAWAY

Optometrist
Bradford Bldg. Elizabeth City, N. C.

A Christmas Creed

By LOUIS VARNUM WOLFE.

I believe in Christmas because it belongs to all nations, to all Christians, to young and old alike.

I believe that no nature is so calloused but what the Festival of Christmas welds over it an influence for betterment.

I believe that out of Christmas comes the best impulses and that because of it men, women, and little children lead tolerant, charitable, and friendly lives.

I believe that every Christmas other Wise Men and other Wise Folks follow the Light of the Eastern Star and dispense in season their precious gifts of love, remembrance, and good will.

I believe that Christmas is a great thought inspiring time and even the "forgotten," as the years run away, are remembered; that no life is so desolate but what Christmas awakens sleeping memories of its never-failing cheer.

I believe that Christmas is not a fable, a legend, or a dream—that it is just as real and wonderful in its meaning today as generous folks are willing to make it.

I believe that Santa Claus is not a mythical personage, but, in fact, hundreds of his apostles move about daily spreading the gospel of happiness everywhere.

I believe that on the calendar there are other significant days, but none as masterly in their heart-appeal as the day which civilization keeps sacred as Christmas.

KEEPS US LOOKING GOOD TO VISITORS

That Is the Daily Job of This Busy City Employee

The subject of this story is Capt. W. J. Simmons, the "boss" of Elizabeth City's street force. Capt. Simmons is 67 years old and going strong. He hasn't had much newspaper advertising; his name isn't paraded around on the occasion of every municipal political campaign; he doesn't ask any recognition from the public, but for five years he has been Elizabeth City's sanitary inspector, and his conduct in office, his application to his duties, and the public approval in general he has merited and won entitle him for once to break into print.

The fact that Elizabeth City is one of the cleanest towns in the state because of its orderly and well-kept streets is often emphasized by the favorable comments of enthusiastic visitors.

Why Elizabeth City is so clean and orderly looking is because Capt. Simmons, with his street cleaning force, takes 20 cartloads of trash a day off its streets. He also sees that six to eight tons of garbage are taken away daily, and superintends the dozen men in the force who do it.

Capt. Simmons' force work nine and one half hours a day. There are four miles of paved street to clean up besides the ten miles more or less of unpaved streets. He keeps four carts going all the time and a fifth one on special occasions. In his equipment he has a motor garbage truck also, as well as a sprinkling wagon and a sweeper.

It costs the city about \$25 a day to keep this gang and equipment working. It isn't cleaning streets all the time, for under the direction of the City Manager, repair work to paving and drainage is done. It takes about two days to sprinkle and sweep the whole city. That is quite a task compared with the little lawn of a city home, the sweeping and cleaning of which is the dread of every housewife. Capt. Simmons' gang could clean up an acre lot in thirty seconds.

Besides being sanitary inspector, Capt. Simmons has for 15 years, been weather observer here for the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It is he who receives every forecast from Washington, and hoists his flag by day and lights by night on the tower at the foot of Fearing Street to warn the shipping of what the weather may do.

In other words, he's the "weather man."

Capt. Simmons doesn't claim any credit for keeping the streets so clean. He says he just helps the city manager. But the old Captain is altogether too modest. He believes that Elizabeth City can best advertise itself by its appearance, because the casual stranger is apt to be a critical observer and not so lenient in his judgement of a new place. The strangers are the ones to look out for because nothing so distasteful to the visitor at the beginning of his stay than disorderly and unsightly streets. The streets make the impression as they are kept, and Capt. Simmons' force is co-operating to give Elizabeth City a good name.

FISHERMEN AT LOGGER HEADS

Chowan River Fishermen Oppose Granting New Territory Below Them

Determined opposition to the opening of any more territory in the middle third of North Carolina Sounds was presented at a meeting of the State Fisheries Commission Board in Elizabeth City Thursday, Dec. 22. The opposition came principally from the Albemarle Fisheries Association, an organization representing several hundred fishermen in the Edenton territory.

There was before the Board a petition from fishermen of Manns Harbor, Dare County, for the privilege of setting pound nets in a territory 2,000 yards wide by 3,000 yards long between Mashews Creek and Colington, and North of Roanoke Island. The fishermen of the upper Sound stoutly contended that the granting of this petition would put the stands of pounds nets squarely in the path of fish in their passage from the lower Sounds to the spawning grounds in Albemarle Sound and vicinity. The Fisheries Commission Board had the matter under consideration when this newspaper went to press.

Members of the Board present at the meeting here were J. H. Dixon, chairman; E. H. Freeman, Dr. J. C. Baum and W. O. Saunders. The meeting was held in the assembly rooms of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mahogany.

A cork dipped in a mixture of equal parts of oxalic acid and water and then rubbed over the stains on a mahogany piano will remove them. When the stains have disappeared, wash the wood well with clear water and polish as usual.

MAY ABOLISH OR HIRE OUT CONVICT FORCE NOW

Pasquotank Highway Commission Has Legislative Authority To Do Either—Other Legislation at Special Session

STOCK LAW GOES IN EFFECT JAN. 1

Special Session of General Assembly Pigeon-Holed All Bills Tending to Amend or Invalidate Act

All efforts in the way of legislation to amend or repeal the State Wide Stock Law enacted by the General Assembly of 1921 died in Committee Rooms of the Special Session of that body which adjourned this week. Many local bills extending the time in so many cases or exempting certain territory from the provisions of the stock law were introduced at the special session; but none of these bills came back after being referred to the House and Senate Committees.

The State Wide Stock law goes into effect Sunday, Jan. 1, 1922. Hundreds of farmers in the Elizabeth City territory have prepared for the event by buying wire fence to make pastures for their pigs and cattle. Many will endeavor to sell off their stock, preferring to keep no stock at all if they are not to be permitted to let their scrub stock have free range.

NORTH CAROLINA EEL FISHERS OUT OF LUCK

Garment Strike and Prohibition Combine to Wreck a Usually Good Market

Prohibition and the garment strike in New York City are blamed for the low price of live eels on the New York market this week. This fact is of peculiar significance to thousands of readers of this newspaper because Eastern North Carolina fishermen ship thousands of pounds of live eels to the New York market at Christmas time. In former years they have received 45 to 75 cents a pound for live eels. Their returns from the New York dealers this week will be considerably below the lower figure of former years.

But what has prohibition and a garment strike got to do with the price of eels? The answer is full of human interest. Italians, from time immemorial, have considered live eels the piece de resistance of their Christmas menu. No one knows—not even the Italians themselves—why they eat eels at Christmas. But big, fat, wriggly live eels are to an Italian what a turkey is to an American. The large Italian population in New York has regularly consumed all of the live eels shipped to that market at Christmas time.

Now within the past two or three years, Italians have largely replaced the Jews in the great garment industry in New York. The great garment strike in New York this winter has hit the Italian colony hard. New York's Italian population hasn't the money to pay fabulous prices for live eels for the Christmas dinner of 1921.

And then Prohibition. A lot of the eels from Eastern North Carolina are small eels, known as shoe string eels. They were formerly bought up by packers and delicatessen firms, smoked and sold as a relish to saloons. Every saloon had its lunch counter and smoked shoe string eels went well with a lunch washed down with imported beer. With the passing of the saloon went also the saloon lunch counter where smoked shoe string eels were always in demand. Likewise went the biggest market for this class of eels.

The garment strike and prohibition combined have therefore helped to unsettle the eel market. At the same time New York has more eels this week than ever before. Boats built especially for the catching and transportation of eels on the St. Lawrence River and its Canadian tributaries brought 275,000 pounds of live eels to Fulton Wholesale Fish Market in New York City last week. And that is another reason why our local fishermen will not bank such big checks for their eel catch this season.

NORFOLK MARKETS

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 22, 1921.

Reported especially for THE INDEPENDENT by Jarvis & Fentress. The following prices represent actual sales made to-day

Items not quoted were not sold to-day and the Food Administration prohibits quotations other than actual sales.

Eggs	50c
Chickens	23c to 25c
Hens	25c
Chickens under 11-14 lbs. not wanted	
Roosters	12c to 15c
Turkeys, live	45c
Geese, dressed	30c to 35c
Ducks, dressed	30c
Ducks, live	25c
New Sweet Potatoes—	
Yams	\$2.50
Yellow	\$2.50
Dressed Hogs	13c to 15c

Phone 23501

Renew your subscription to THE INDEPENDENT. Do not let it get away from you.

An act to provide for trial by jury when called for in the Recorder's Court of Pasquotank; an act providing for the payment of moneys not amounting to more than \$300 for the estates of interstates to the Clerk of the Superior Court; an act authorizing the Pasquotank Highway Commission to hire out convicts or abolish the convict system in its discretion; and an act defining itinerant merchandising and imposing a tax on itinerants, pawnbrokers and dealers in second hand clothing. Such was the crop of new legislation for Pasquotank County from the Special Session of the General Assembly which adjourned Tuesday morning, Dec. 20.

Distinction comes to the special session because of the things it did not do, rather than by reason of its concrete enactments. State-wide legislation proposed mounted to imposing proportions, but in the majority of cases, it was moved down by a persistent determination not to upset the existing statutes to any greater extent than was necessary.

State-wide measures ratified before adjournment included the following:

A revised Municipal Finance Act; a resolution authorizing the bonding of a \$700,000 deficit in State School Fund; an act to validate taxes levied by counties for the support of six months school term, and to fix rate for 1921; an act modifying taxes on banks, and to give Corporation Commission more control over State banks; an act to repeal cotton warehouse tax; an act requiring all local and State bond issues to be registered in the office of the State Auditor; an act providing machinery for the collection of automobile license taxes.

Among the things the General Assembly refused to do are included the following:

To pass the Long Ejectment Bill; to repeal State-wide primary law; to abolish or modify capital punishment; to repeal the penalty for non-payment of taxes; to enlarge appropriations to various State educational and custodial institutions; to require Revenue Commissioner to give publicity to any proposed reductions of property assessments.

Mr. Cooke Not So Wild

Representative C. A. Cooke of Pasquotank County got thru the Special Session without doing anything to disturb the peace and tranquility of folks back home. Mr. Cooke went to Raleigh with a bill to impose a tax of \$1,000 on itinerant merchants. He put his bill thru the Lower House and had it on its first reading in the Senate when the Board of Aldermen sent him a substitute bill, which was not what Mr. Cooke wanted at all. But Mr. Cooke withdrew his own bill and secured the passage of the substitute without any fuss, insisting that he was glad to make any concession or compromise in the interest of harmony and to carry out the will of the people back home. The substitute bill provides:

Section 1. That subsection twenty-six of section one hundred twenty-five of chapter three hundred forty-one, of Private Laws of one thousand nine hundred and fifteen, be and the same is hereby repealed, and the following be substituted in the place thereof: "On each person, firm, or corporation who conducts a so-called 'pawnshop' or 'Loan-office' on the business of loaning money on wearing apparel, household and kitchen furniture, or other personal property by pledge, hypothecation, or otherwise, shall pay in advance an annual tax of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars."

Sec. 2. That subsection fifty-four of section one hundred twenty-five of Private Laws of one thousand nine hundred and fifteen, be and the same is hereby repealed, and the following substituted in lieu thereof:

(a) Any person, firm or corporation who shall carry from place to place any goods, wares, and merchandise and sell, barter or offer for sale said commodities, or any of them, shall be deemed to be a peddler, and shall pay a license tax as follows: Each peddler on foot \$50.00 per annum; each peddler with horse, mule, ox, with or without vehicle, or with vehicle propelled by any other power, a license tax of \$100.00 per annum; each peddler of drugs, medicines, nostrums, etc., whether on foot or with horse, mule, ox or other mode of conveyance, shall pay a license tax of \$150.00 per annum. All of said licenses shall be paid in advance.

(b) Each itinerant merchant or dealer, whether as proprietor or as agent who sells or offers to sell bankrupt or fire sales of any kind of goods, wares or merchandise shall pay a license tax of One Hundred Dollars per week, in advance.

(c) Any itinerant merchant, or salesman, selling or offering for sale as agent or principal, any kind of goods, wares or merchandise (Continued on Page 5.)

OBEY THAT IMPULSE AND FILL IN THIS HANDY BLANK

THE INDEPENDENT, Elizabeth City, N. C.

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